Dear Dean Gerken, Professor Amar, and Fellow Federalist Society Members:

I am thrilled and delighted by Dean Gerken's announcement of the creation of The Rosenkranz Originalism Conference at Yale Law School. This is a tremendous step forward for both Yale Law School and for the theory of the centrality of the original public meaning of legal texts. Dean Gerken deserves our thanks and praise for allowing us to create this program — a step that none of her predecessors had taken. The exceptional quality of this new program will, I predict, help keep Yale atop the legal academy. (For example, Harvard Law School has recently started an Originalism Center but has yet to do much with it.)

It is important for all of you to know that the Federalist Society was born at Yale Law School as a result of an April 1982 conference on Federalism, which the Yale Federalist Society chapter hosted and planned. The keynote speaker at that conference was Judge Robert H. Bork, a former Yale Law School faculty member, whose class I took and who was a father of modern-day originalism. We were inspired to form the Federalist Society at Yale Law School by Judge Bork. In fact, Professor Amar and I both took the last seminar that Judge Bork ever taught at Yale Law School — during my third year and Professor Amar's second year. The history of originalism and of the Federalist Society itself is tightly intertwined with the history of the Yale Law School. Judge Bork and originalism itself emerged at Yale Law School as an alternative to the legal realism that dominated Yale Law School from the 1930s to the early 1980s — all of which explains why the Federalist Society was created at Yale and not at Harvard, Stanford, or Columbia.

I look forward to teaching here for each of the next five Fall semesters. I am immensely grateful for Dean Gerken’s support both of my teaching at Yale and of Originalism with the creation of this new Originalism Conference series. She has my undying support and gratitude!

Sincerely,

Steven G. Calabresi ’83
Co-Founder of the Federalist Society